



African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat (APRM)
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**APRM Virtual-Briefing
on the APRM Country Reports**

to

the African Union Peace and Security Council

Concept Note

OCTOBER, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was established in 2003 as a self-monitoring instrument to which Member States of the African Union (AU) accede voluntarily.¹ The Assembly of the African Union, at its 23rd Ordinary Session held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, through Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII), decided that the APRM shall be an autonomous entity **within** the AU system. **The mandate of the APRM is to ensure that the policies and practices of participating states² conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards.**³
2. The APRM is mandated, under paragraph 25 of its Base Document, to present its Country Review Reports (CRRs) to key African Union Organs and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). These key AU Organs include the Peace and Security Council (PSC). The country review reports have to be presented to these key AU organs six months after the country review report has been considered by the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government of the Participating Member States countries and the Member State peer reviewed has accepted the findings and observations of the peer review process and officially launched the report. The presentation of the country review reports to these key AU organs constitutes the fifth and final stage of the peer review process.
3. To date, the APRM presented Country Review Reports before the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) twice (2 times). First on 19th December 2018 at the PSC its 819th meeting. The APRM delegation dating the first presentation was led by Professor Ibrahim Gambari, then Member of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons and included Bishop Dinis Salomao Sengulane, Member of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons. The second presentation of APRM country review reports to the PSC was on 5 March 2020 at the 914th Meeting of the PSC. Professor IBRAHIM GAMBARI, then member of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons led the briefing of the country review reports to the PSC.
4. At its 819th Meeting held on 19th December, 2018, the PSC expressed its support to the APRM and its efforts in relation to the promotion of good governance and inclusive and sustainable development. The PSC acknowledged the importance of the APRM as one of the most effective mechanisms for promoting conflict prevention, as it contributes in addressing some of the structural root causes of conflicts in the Continent, particularly those relating to governance. Lastly the PSC encouraged the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons to

¹ The APRM Base Document adopted at the 6th Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, 9 March 2003, Abuja, Nigeria, Para.1

² Forty (40) member states to date

³ *Ibid*, Para. 2

work, where appropriate, in close collaboration with the AU Panel of the Wise, particularly in preventive diplomacy efforts.

5. At its 914th Meeting held on 5th March, 2020, emphasized the significance of institutionalising regular interactions with the APRM including scheduling two briefings per year, aimed at synergizing efforts, sharing experiences emanating from the review processes in order to enhance efforts towards preventive diplomacy in Africa.
6. The PSC requested the Commission working in close collaboration with the APRM Secretariat, to organise a Joint Retreat of the APRM before the Extraordinary Summit earmarked for May 2020, aimed at thoroughly engaging and interrogating the various review reports undertaken in the past two years, such as reports on Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire and Egypt; and in this aspect, underlines the importance of inviting relevant stakeholders to partake in the retreat, including the Panel of the Wise, Pan-African Network of the Wise and FemWise; and agrees to dedicate a session to deliberate and adopt the outcomes of the planned Joint Retreat. The PSC decided to convene twice a year to receive briefings on the work of the APRM.
7. The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 30th Ordinary Session held in January, 2018 through Decision, Assembly/AU/Dec.686 (XXX), welcomed steps taken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA).
8. Pursuant to the Assembly Assembly/AU/Dec.686 (XXX), the APRM Secretariat organized a Workshop on Silencing the Guns and Positioning the APRM as an Early Tool for Conflict Prevention on the Continent held from 24-25 February, 2020 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Workshop considered and adopted the APRM Early Warning Framework.
9. The PSC at its 914th Meeting held in March, 2020 underscored the significance of the pillars of the "APRM Framework on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention" which provided a roadmap of collaboration between the APRM and the various pillars of APSA, particularly, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs). The PSC also underscored the need for enhanced coordination and synergising of efforts of all the stakeholders within the context of conflict prevention, in pursuit of lasting peace, security and economic development.

II. FOCUS OF THE THIRD APRM BRIEFING TO THE PSC IN MAY 2020

10. At the concurrence of the PSC, the APRM is keen to provide a briefing (via visio-conference) to the PSC on country reviews which have been completed recently. For the sake of time and mindful of the possible technical challenges associated with technologies, the APRM proposes to limit the presentation to one country to ensure that the discussions are carried out smoothly.
11. The country proposed is the Republic of Mozambique, whose country review report was peer reviewed by the APR Forum of Heads of State in February, 2019. The government of Mozambique accepted the findings of the peer review process and launched the Report on May, 2020. It should be mentioned that the country has undertaken and completed two APRM country reviews: in July 2009, and again in 2019.
12. In addition to the above report, the APRM will also provide a very short summary of ongoing initiatives being undertaken by the institution in response to the global pandemic of Covid-19, in very close collaboration with the African Union Commission at large, and more specifically with the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), as well as the Departments of the Commission.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE APRM BRIEFING TO THE PSC

13. It is expected that the APRM Briefing will lead to the adoption of a Communiqué that:
 - Considers the outcome of the Country Review Report of Mozambique.
 - Takes note of the preliminary actions being taken by the APRM in order to support the efforts of the AU and continent to strengthen the various governance systems (local, national, regional and continental) to better address the Covid 19 pandemic and promote experience sharing.

IV. METHODOLOGY AND DATE OF THE MEETING

14. It is expected that the meeting will be conducted via Visio-Conference, in Closed Session. The APRM briefing will be made by the Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, Her Excellency Professor Fatma Zohra Karadja who will be accompanied by one Member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and two officers from the APRM Secretariat.

15. The exact date of the presentation will be determined by the PSC. In line with the procedures of the PSC, it is expected that the meeting will bring together PSC Members and relevant representatives of the AU Commission. It is also expected that the PSC Secretariat will notify and invite the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the presentation.

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